GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1330
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Quality of Higher Education & Research
Mishra Shri Janardan

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to improve the quality of higher education and research in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof including the measures adopted to implement the recommendations contained in the reports of any Parliamentary Committee in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(Dr. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) & (b): The Central Government has launched several initiatives viz. National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Uchchtar Avishkar Yojna (UAY), Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in the field of education for the qualitative development of education in the country. Under the NIRF, Educational Institutions are ranked by an independent ranking Agency on the basis of objective criteria. The IMPRINT initiative seeks to address engineering challenges in ten technology domains through the collaborative efforts of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The objectives of UAY scheme are to promote innovation in IITs addressing issues of manufacturing industries; to spur innovative mindset; to co-ordinate action between academia & industry and to strengthen labs & research facilities. Distinguished academicians, from premier institutions across the world, are invited under the scheme of GIAN to conduct one week or two week course at Indian institutions.
Strategic funding and reforms in the State higher education sector are being undertaken through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
The University Grants Commission (UGC) undertakes maintenance of standards in teaching and research and quality assurance in Universities, Deemed to be Universities and Colleges through the following mechanisms, namely: framing regulations and schemes and; disbursing grants to the eligible institutions. The UGC has notified and amended several regulations with the objective of sustenance and improvement in the quality of higher education and for undertaking academic reforms. The regulations are available at http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/UGC-Regulatons.aspx. in order to encourage research and development in the country, the UGC is implementing several schemes, awards, fellowships, chairs and programmes. These schemes are at http://www.ugc.ac.in/page/XII-Plan-Guidelines.aspx.
The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Human Resource Development in its 279th Report has appreciated the new initiative under Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) to invite distinguished academicians, entrepreneur's, scientists, experts from premier institutions from across the world to teach in higher educational institutions in India, hence, promoting international collaborations and improvements in quality of higher education in India. The recommendations in the report of the Committee have been acted upon. As a part of the action plan for implementation of Study Webs of Active Learning for Youth and Active Minds (SWAYAM), the UGC has notified the regulations on 20th July, 2016 for the credit framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM. Further, the funding under RUSA from 2016-17 year onwards is performance based and the States/UTs have been communicated the desired performance parameters on which their performance, under the scheme, is assessed. The terms and references of the Pay Review Committee, recently constituted by the UGC, include making recommendations on the ways and means for attracting and retaining talented persons in the teaching profession, as well as for furtherance of research in the university system; ways and means to improve quality of teaching and encouraging/incentivizing the use of information Technology in teaching and also for their career advancement in teaching and equivalent positions in order to improve the quality of higher education; etc.

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